SUMMER 1979

Columbia Seminary Vantage

COMMENCEMENT HONORS FORTY-EIGHT

Dr. Martin E. Marty, Professor of the History of Modern Christianity at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, challenged the graduates of Columbia Seminary with a stirring address during the Commencement Exercises on Sunday afternoon, May 27. He spoke on the subject "The Imperative to Congregate" and stressed the crucial importance of local churches gathering in corporate worship and study.

Dr. J. Phillips Noble, Chairman of the Board of Directors, awarded forty-eight degrees upon the recommendation of the faculty. Students receiving their degrees represented 12 states and 5 countries.

Commencement was preceeded by a Baccalaureate Service on Sunday morning at the Peachtree Presbyterian Church. The host pastor, Dr. W. Frank Harrington, delivered an inspiring sermon from Philippians 1:20 that stressed the importance of three vital Biblical virtues, "Duty, Courage and Honor."

Dean Oscar J. Hussel presented the hoods to the graduates and announced the prizes and awards. Graduates Joanna Moseley Adams, Peter R. Roest, Kathryn Hooks Sandifer, Kate Elizabeth McGregor Simmons and Jacalyn Watson Thomas were awarded their degrees "with distinction" for outstanding academic achievements.

In keeping with a time-honored tradition, President J. Davison Philips concluded the Commencement Exercises by offering a charge to the graduating class using selected passages of Scripture.

Principals in Commencement (left to right) Dr. J. Phillips Noble, Chairman of the Board; Dr. Oscar J. Hussel, Dean of Academic Affairs; Dr. T. Erskine Clarke, Dean of Students; Dr. Martin E. Marty, Commencement Speaker; President J. Davison Philips.

NEW PROFESSOR JOINS FACULTY

Dr. Robert H. Ramey, Jr., the Pastor of the Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church of Stone Mountain, Georgia, has been elected by the Board of Directors to become Professor of Ministry beginning July 1, 1979.

In announcing the appointment, President J. Davison Philips states, "The Chair of Ministry is projected as a means of more adequately preparing our candidates for ministry in the areas of Evangelism, Stewardship, Church Polity and Christian Education. Dr. Ramey is an able Presbyterian Minister with excellent experience in five churches of all types and sizes. We are indeed fortunate to have him join us in the mission of Columbia Seminary."

Professor Ramey is a Phi Beta Kappa from Hampden-Sydney College. He holds three degrees from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond . . . B.D., Th.M. in Pastoral Care, and D.Min. His pastorates include Knox Presbyterian Church of Norfolk, VA and the Selwyn Avenue

Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, NC.

Dr. Ramey has served as a member of the Commission on the Minister in three presbyteries. He has been utilized as a preacher, teacher, and retreat leader throughout the Church. He is married to Jane Robbins McGarry and they have three children—Robin Ramey Dorrier, Robert McGarry and Andrea Lynn.

UPDATE ON CAMPAIGNS

Capital Funds Campaigns in Columbia Seminary's supporting Synods are at various stages of development. The Board of Directors has projected campaigns in each of the three Synods to increase the endowment by $6,000,000 and to make provision for certain building renovations. Here is a brief report about what is happening.

Mid-South, 1978-79

The Capital Funds Campaign for Theological Education in the Synod of the Mid-South benefits Columbia and Louisville Theological Seminaries. A fine Steering Committee of the Synod, headed by Dr. Paul Tudor Jones, has encouraged each of the presbyteries and churches to participate.

We are pleased to report that 317 churches in the Synod have participated in the Campaign so far. Of this number 187 have adopted goals of $2,299,630. Another 130 churches have voted to participate but have not yet established goals for their churches.

The solicitation phase of this Campaign is about concluded except in Knoxville Presbytery where they are just now starting to approach the churches. We are hopeful that the goal of $2½ million will be realized. Columbia's projected part of this goal is 28% or $700,000.

Florida, 1979-80

The Synod of Florida has approved a goal of $1½ million for Columbia's Capital Funds Campaign. Each of the five presbyteries has endorsed the Campaign.

During September and October, 1979, there will be an effort to have Seminary Teams visit in as many as 100 churches to give information about Columbia Seminary's mission. Presbytery Campaign Committees will be organized during September and October. This will be followed by a Special Gifts Phase from October-December, 1979, and a Congregational Phase (January-March, 1980).

Southeast, 1980-81

Approval has been gained for a $4½ million Campaign for the Synod of the Southeast. Presbytery Councils and Presbyteries are in the process of endorsing the projected Campaign.

IN MEMORIAM

MRS. BETTY DAVIS

Faithful Secretary and Friend

March 27, 1979

CONVOCATION

A Convocation on "The State of the Church" brought PCUS Moderator Sarah B. Moseley to our Campus.

BOARD ACTIONS

At its Spring Meeting, April 24-25, 1979, the Board of Directors approved a new Statement on Tenure and a Plan for Faculty Development. The Board also framed a resolution of appreciation and commendation for Professor Hubert Vance Taylor for his 31 years of inspired service as a member of the faculty upon his retirement January 31, 1979.

Frederick O. Bonkovsky was promoted to Professor of Christian Ethics with Tenure; Oscar J. Hussel was promoted to Professor of Christian Education and granted Tenure; Jasper N. Keith, Jr. was elected Professor of Pastoral Care with Tenure; Robert H. Ramey, Jr. was elected as Professor of Ministry with Tenure; all of these effective July 1, 1979. Professors Thomas H. McDill and Hubert Vance Taylor were named as Professors Emeriti.

Columbia Theological Seminary, 701 Columbia Drive, Decatur, Ga., 30031. Vantage, Vol. 71, No. 2, Richard A. Dodds, Editor, Published Quarterly. Second Class Postage Paid at Decatur, Ga., Publication No. 124160.

FROM the PRESIDENT

Columbia has just sent the 1979 graduates into mission and ministry in all seven synods of the PCUS church and to Brazil as well. From those receiving advanced degrees, a few have gone to the Church of God, Baptist and Methodist Churches. Two have gone to other Presbyterian bodies, the United Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

For this we exist, and for this we have labored in partnership with the Church. For this gifts of money, time, work and prayer have been invested.

As I presented each Candidate for a degree at Commencement, I prayed for God's special grace for them. They pursue a difficult mission, but a great one.

When the Harvard Class of 1954 gathered on Harvard Lawn for their 25th reunion, they were called "the most distinguished class in memory." The Harvard Crimson headlined "25 years of over-achieving." Why? That class of 1,140 included Senator Edward Kennedy, Author John Updike, the heads of two major museums, the President of Colgate, Historian Christopher Lasch, Lawyer F. Lee Bailey, 100 attorneys, 80 doctors, 70 professors and at least 95 who earn over $95,000 a year. Is all that, however, the measure of greatness?

For our Class here at Columbia, the criterion for greatness is dramatically different. Jesus said, "Those who *serve* most are the greatest in the Kingdom."

So, we wish for each one greatness, which is not measured by status, position, money or prestige, but the quality *service!*

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Faithfully yours,

J. Davison Philips

THE CHALLENGE OF MINISTRY-CLASS OF 1979

"How shall they hear without a preacher?" — Romans 10:15

"How shall they hear without a preacher?"—Romans 10:15.

When you glance at the "Centerfold of Graduates" in this issue of VANTAGE, you can't help but be impressed with the amount of study, hard work, dedication and prayer that is in evidence in their lives. To give you a feeling of what is involved in facing the challenge of ministry today, the searchlight is focused on four "typical" (Is there such a thing?) members of the Class of 1979.

JOANNA ADAMS

Joanna has a fascinating story to tell about her pilgrimage of faith that led her to Columbia Seminary. This is the way she describes it: "As a young girl with a mouth full of braces and gangly legs growing up in Mississippi, I had a secret dream—to be a minister. I would preach heart-felt but horrible sermons in the privacy of my bedroom, using my desk as a pulpit. More than once, I dedicated my life to full-time Christian service at Sunday night church, suspecting all the while that women couldn't be preachers and that I couldn't forsake my vision of marriage and motherhood to become a foreign missionary. Yet, though I let go of my dream of ministry for many years, the church simply would not let me go. Again and again, the church has called me to serve and now I am ready to reclaim that dream as an ordained minister of the Word."

Joanna has been called to be the Associate Minister of the Central Presbyterian Church of Atlanta.

Her husband, Al, is a practicing attorney in Atlanta. Her children, Elizabeth, who is 11, and Sam, who is 8, are excited about their mother's new role as a minister.

Joanna says, "During my preparation for ministry at Columbia, I have had my sense of call affirmed again and again. I know that neither God nor I will be content if I allow myself to be less than God created me to be —a minister of the Good News."

TRUMAN GEESLIN

In reflecting on his call to ministry, Truman Geeslin tells about the time when he "pursued Yoga, Zen Buddhism, Emersonian philosophy, self hypnosis, cosmic consciousness and chemical psychadelics." This hardly sounds like the traditional background for a Presbyterian minister, but it was the experience of this rather unique young man.

Truman is an example of one whose life was very much affected by the turbulent 60's. His autobiography dramatically illustrates the kind of pressures that influenced him.

Although Truman was baptized and joined the Church at an early age, he says he did not have a vital living faith in Christ until he was 28 years old. Since he made his profession in 1974, he has been most zealous in seeking the Lord's will for his life.

Commenting on his preparation for ministry at Columbia, Truman says, "I have been very enthusiastic about my studies at Columbia Seminary. I have had the privilege of working with some wonderful people. My faith is stronger because I have seen that the Body of Christ is as real as it is diverse. I have confidence in the future of my ministry because of the support and love of my family and friends and the grace of the Lord."

Truman has been called to a two-church field in Hurley, Virginia. One church has 35 members (Hurley) and the other has 50 (Clarke Memorial). He is excited about his prospects for ministry. He will be accompanied by his wife, Roxanna, and his seven-year-old son, Woody.

EDWARD McILWAIN

The transition from professional photographer in Columbia, South Carolina, to the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Fordyce, Arkansas, is an interesting story. This has been the experience of Ed McIlwain.

Ed had the good fortune of being raised in a Christian home. He established strong ties with his ministers and youth advisers as a child and this carried into his mature years. He took an active part in religious activities on the college campus. His marriage to Asenath VanPatton during his senior year at the University of South Carolina had a real effect on his life. She helped him clarify his commitment to Christ.

Ed spent four years in the U.S. Navy in photo intelligence work. While stationed in England, their daughters, Patricia and Katherine, were born. Upon his return to civilian life, he used his skills as a photographer and started to climb the corporate ladder.

Although Ed was successful in his photographic profession, he felt some-

See CHALLENGE page 6

Doctor of Mins

Katherine Imogene Bennett

Marget Elaine McRobbie

COLUMBIA THEOLOG

Young Ihl Chang

Master
of
Theology
Degree

Joanna Moseley Adams

Paul H. Akers

Douglas William Bower

Royce Leonard Browder

James Mayo Cantey

Samuel

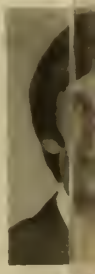
Cheryl Ann Gosa

John Coxwell Hall

James Richard Hartsfield

Robert Samuel Johnson

James Bruce Lancaster



C. R

William Hunter Ralston

Kris K. Ramsahai

Gary Clemons Record

Peter R. Roest

Kathryn Hooks Sandifer

Kate Elizabet

(In Sequence)

Timothy LaRue Melton

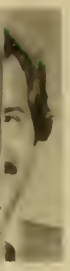
Donald R. Olinger

CAL SEMINARY 1979

Master of Theological Studies Degree

M. Asumang-Birikorang

Lee Anderson Wyatt


arriker

Franklin Grimes Colladay, Jr.

Joseph Arthur Cordero

Barry Dean Ferguson

Michael Clay Fleenor

Truman Burgess Geeslin

, Jr.

Gregory E. Loskoski

Edward Lewis McIlwain

Richard Montgomery Nelson

John-Nelson B. Pope

Christopher Allen Price

gor Simmons

John Hillman Stuhl

Bruce D. Swanson

Jacalyn Watson Thomas

Richard Ellsworth Thomas

George Marcellus Walton

CHALLENGE (Continued)

thing was missing. His call to ministry came in a rather sudden and dramatic way. Within two weeks of his "tap on the shoulder," he started to make plans to enter Columbia Seminary and prepare to become a pastor.

The Ed McIlwains are looking forward to their ministry together in Arkansas.

BILL RALSTON

Many seminary graduates have a fear of being stereotyped as "youth workers" and make every effort to find a call that does not have a strong emphasis on ministry with youth. This is not a problem with Bill Ralston.

Since his days as an undergraduate at Davidson College, Bill has had a strong interest in making the Christian faith relevant to young people. At Davidson, he was the Chairman of the Christian Life Committee and Class President. While at college, he was the Summer Youth Worker at Clairmont Presbyterian Church and since coming to seminary he has served on the staff of Young Life.

Bill brings a vibrant enthusiasm to everything he participates in. It was while he was serving two years as an Infantry Officer in the U.S. Army that "he took unto himself a wife." Beth Corbin Ralston shares the concerns that Bill has. They are both anticipating a rewarding ministry as Bill has responded to a call at the Highlands Presbyterian Church of Gainesville, Florida. He will have primary responsibilities working with Youth and Young Adults but will also have opportunities to lead in worship, preach, teach, counsel and administer.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

ALUMNI FELLOWSHIPS
Joanna Moseley Adams
Marget Elaine McRobbie
Peter R. Roest

FANNIE JORDAN BRYANT FELLOWSHIP
Elizabeth McGregor Simmons

WILDS BOOK PRIZE
Peter R. Roest

ABDULLAH AWARD
Elizabeth McGregor Simmons

LYMAN AND MYKI MOBLEY PRIZE
James D. Newsome, Jr.

PERSONAL LIBRARIES RECEIVED

The John Bulow Campbell Library has been the recipient of the personal libraries of two ministers in the past year.

The Rev. C. Walker Sessions contributed his library to Columbia Seminary on the occasion of his retirement as pastor of the Northside Presbyterian Church in Cleveland, Tennessee. The family of Dr. H. Kerr Taylor gave Dr. Taylor's library to Columbia following his death.

Each of these libraries was over 1,000 volumes. Both gifts were extensive collections in theology, missions and general works of interest to a minister. This added many new titles to the library collection as well as replacing used, worn-out volumes. Volumes not needed for the library were sold to the students to begin their own libraries.

Anyone interested in giving their personal libraries to Columbia Seminary should contact the Director of Library Operations, Lillian Taylor.

CAMPUS SCENES

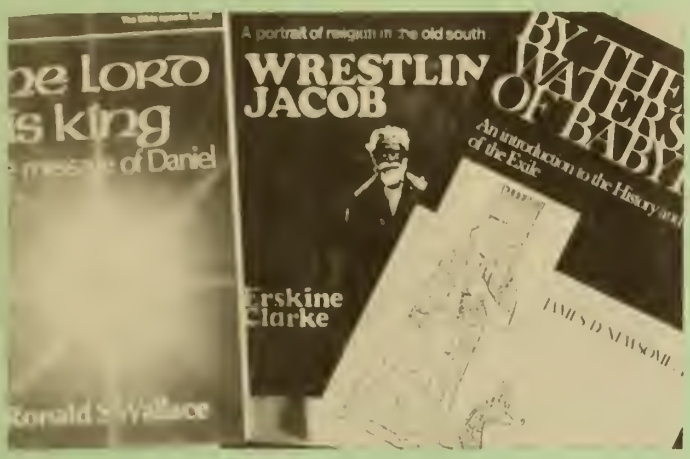
Robby and Donna McBride of Charleston, South Carolina, are at the center of Campus life and activities. Robby serves as President of the Student Coordinating Council and Donna is President of the Women of Columbia.

Dr. Charles Webster, Pastor of the Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples, Florida, brings a message to the Seminary Community.

The Executive Committee of the Alumni Council met recently on campus. (L to R) Staff member, Richard Dodds; Vice-President, Alice Johnson; President, Lawrence Wood and Immediate Past-President, Frank Alexander. (Secretary, Tom Aycock was not able to be present.)

Gracious Hostess Marie Alexander and her efficient staff prepare and serve food for many and varied campus activities.

FACULTY IN PRINT



One of the ways the life of the Church is enriched is through the books and study materials produced by the faculty members of our seminaries. Three new books have recently been published by members of the Columbia Seminary faculty which will provide understanding and inspiration for ministers and laypersons alike.

The Lord is King is a series of expositions on the book of Daniel written by Professor Emeritus Ronald S. Wallace. In his preface to the book, Dr. Wallace states, "As for Daniel, I again found him there in Babylon in flesh and blood, with hands and feet, and a real face, in a struggle quite like that of our church today, inspiring confidence and giving guidance." The book is one of several that has been written for the Inter-Varsity Press series, "The Bible Speaks Today."

Dr. Erskine Clarke, the Dean of Students at Columbia, is the author of *Wrestlin' Jacob: A Portrait of Religion in the Old South*. Commenting on the book, Dr. E. Brooks Holifield of Emory University writes, *Wrestlin' Jacob* recounts the fascinating story of the quest for dignity and freedom among the black slaves in the antebellum South. Today's Christians will gain new insights from this enthralling historical saga. *Wrestlin' Jacob* exhibits responsible historical scholarship. I recommend it highly." The book is published by John Knox Press.

Another book published by John Knox Press is the one written by Dr. James D. Newsome, Jr., Director of Advanced Studies, entitled *By the Waters of Babylon*. The sub-title of the book is "An Introduction to the History and Theology of the Exiles." Professor James L. Crenshaw of Vanderbilt University states, "James Newsome's imaginative reconstruction based on his rich knowledge of Old Testament history offers a lively account. He masterfully enriches *By the Waters of Babylon* with his vivid imagery and evocative interpretations."

A word of congratulation and appreciation is expressed to Professors Wallace, Clarke, and Newsome for sharing their scholarship and writing skills with the Church.

SEMINARY BEYOND CAMPUS

Theological education is not confined to Columbia Seminary's campus. In addition to taking the traditional courses in Bible, Theology, Church History, Homiletics, Ethics and Pastoral Counseling, students are involved in Supervised Ministry off campus.

Dr. Jasper Keith, with the able assistance of Staff Associate Pete Carruthers, reports that over 300 interviews have been conducted during this academic year between students and supervising pastors. This process has resulted in the placement of forty students in a parish setting for the summer where they will engage in the practice of ministry under supervision.

Professor Keith also reports that seven students have been placed in Clinical Pastoral Education Centers for a basic unit of CPE during the summer of 1979. Three students will be involved in an Intern Year in the D.Min. in-sequence degree program this year. An additional forty middler students will have Supervised Ministry opportunities at Georgia Baptist Hospital and the Wesley Woods Health Center.

CONFERENCE ON MINISTRY

Professor Shirley Guthrie speaks to visiting students on "Reformed Theology" during Columbia's Conference on Ministry.

NEW APARTMENTS

Thanks to the vision and generosity of Board Member Tom Rast and an anonymous donor, the new Married Students Apartments have been completed and occupied.

MATCHING GIFT CLAIMED

Due to some generous bequests and gifts that have come to the Seminary through individuals and Capital Gifts Campaigns in our supporting Synods, a claim has been placed upon a part of the $1 million Challenge Fund offered by an anonymous foundation.

F. Sidney Anderson, Treasurer and Business Manager, reports, "Of real significance is the fact that we have qualified for the first matching gift of $250,000 from the anonymous foundation. This money has been received and set up as a designated endowment with the proceeds going for the upkeep and maintenance of the Library and Campbell Hall."

Additional gifts received through the Capital Funds Campaigns in the Synods of Mid-South, Florida and Southeast will enable the Seminary to claim the remaining $750,000 on a dollar for dollar matching basis.

1979 GRADUATE DEGREES

DOCTOR OF SACRED THEOLOGY

Jasper Newton Keith, Jr.
Tucker, Georgia

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY
(In-ministry)

C. Edwin Chase
Savannah, Georgia

Curtis James Cofield
Montgomery, Alabama

William Joseph DeLay
Peachtree City, Georgia

Stephen McQueen Huntley, Jr.
Kingstree, South Carolina

Donald Jay Jansen
Holland, Michigan

Calvin L. Vermeire
Orange Beach, Alabama

MASTER OF THEOLOGY

Young Ihl Chang
Seoul, Korea

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

M. Asumang-Birikorang
Kwanyako, Ghana

Lee Anderson Wyatt
Decatur, Georgia

GRADUATE PLACEMENTS 1979

Joanna M. Adams, Associate Pastor, Central Presbyterian Church, 201 Washington Street, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303
Paul H. Akers, (In Conversation)
Douglas William Bower, Pastor, New Hope United Methodist Church, 1806 New Hope Road, Lawrenceville, GA 30245
Royce Leonard Browder, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, P. O. Box 71, Wetumpka, AL 36092
Jimmy M. Cantey, Pastor, Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 4206 Ramsgate, San Antonio, TX 78230
Samuel David Carriker, Pastor, McLean and Rourk Presbyterian Churches, Rt. 2, Box 10, Ellerbe, NC 28338
Franklin G. Colladay, Jr., Pastor, Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church, P. O. Box 25, Statham, GA 30666
Joseph A. Cordero, Graduate work, Mercer University Medical School
Barry Dean Ferguson, Pastor, Steam Mill Road Presbyterian Church, 4458 Steam Mill Road, Columbus, GA 31907
Michael Clay Fleenor, Pastor, Piney Flats Presbyterian Church, Piney Flats, TN 37686
Truman Burgess, Geeslin, Pastor, Hurley Presbyterian Church, Hurley, VA 24620
Cheryl Ann Gosa, (In Conversation)
John Coxwell Hall, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, 2425 9th Street, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
James Richard Hartsfield, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, P. O. Box 507, Lake Providence, LA 71254
Robert Samuel Johnson, Missionary, Missao Presbiteriana, Caixa Postal, 31 Imperatriz, Maranhao, Brazil
J. Bruce Lancaster, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, 223 E. Elm Street, Prescott, AR 61857
C. Russell Lee, Jr., Pastor, Mt. Carmel Presbyterian Church, Rt. 1, Ellerbe, NC 28338
Gregory Ennis Loskoski, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, P. O. Box 807, Valdosta, GA 31601
Edward Lewis McIlwain, Pastor, Fordyce Presbyterian Church, P. O. Box 697, Fordyce, AR 71742
Marget Elaine McRobbie, Associate Pastor, Murray Hill Presbyterian Church, 940 Talbot Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32205
Richard Montgomery Nelson, Pastor, Timberridge Presbyterian Church, P. O. Box 111, McDonough, GA 30253
John Nelson B. Pope, Pastor McLean Chapel and Salem Churches, Rt. 2, Box 289, Ronceverte, WVA 24970
Christopher Allen Price, Graduate work, St. Andrews, Scotland
William Hunter Ralston, Associate Pastor, Highlands Presbyterian Church, 1001 N.E. 16th Street, Gainesville, FL 32601
Kris Ramsahai, First Baptist Church, 754 Peachtree St., NE, Atlanta, GA 30308
Gary Clemons Record, Pastor, Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church, Rt. 8, Chattanooga Valley Road, Chattanooga, TN 37409
Peter R. Roest, Pastor, Routh Memorial Presbyterian Church, Union and Washington Roads, Spartanburg, SC 29302
Kathryn Hooks Sandifer, Clinical Pastoral Education Internship at Grady Hospital, Atlanta, GA
Kate Elizabeth McGregor Simmons, Associate Pastor, Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 2001 University Boulevard, W. Jacksonville, FL 32217
John Millman Stuhl, Associate Pastor, Covenant Presbyterian Church, 3131 Walton Way, Augusta, GA 30909
Bruce D. Swanson, Graduate work, Master of Theology Program, Columbia Seminary, Decatur, GA
Jacalyn Watson Thomas and Richard Ellsworth Thomas, Pastors, Brookneal Presbyterian Church, P. O. Box 26, Brookneal, VA 24528 and Phenix Presbyterian Church, P. O. Box 8, Phenix, VA 23959
Jose Vera, Pastor, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico
George M. Walton, Pastor, Bethel, Danube and Mary Horner Walker Memorial Churches, Claudville, VA 24076

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Vantage

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